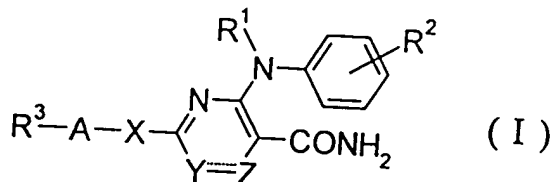


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please enter the following amended claim:

1. (Amended) A heterocyclecarboxamide derivative represented by the general formula (I) or a salt thereof.



wherein the symbols in the formula have the following meanings:

A: a lower alkylene which may have substituent(s), an arylene which may have substituent(s), a heteroarylene which may have substituent(s), or a cycloalkylene which may have substituent(s);

X:  $\text{NR}^4$ ,  $\text{CONR}^4$ ,  $\text{NR}^4\text{CO}$ , O, or S;

a dotted line between Y and Z: presence ( $\text{Y}=\text{Z}$ ) or absence ( $\text{Y}-\text{Z}$ ) of a bond;

Y-Z:  $\text{N}(\text{R}^5)-\text{C}(\text{O})$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{R}^5)$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{R}^5)-\text{N}(\text{R}^5)$ , or  $\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})$ ;

Y=Z:  $\text{N}=\text{C}(\text{R}^6)$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{R}^7)=\text{N}$ ,  $\text{N}=\text{N}$ , or  $\text{C}(\text{R}^7)=\text{C}(\text{R}^7)$ ;

$\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ : H, a lower alkyl,  $-\text{CO}$ -lower alkyl, or  $-\text{SO}_2$ -lower alkyl;

$\text{R}^2$ : H, a lower alkyl, a halogen, a lower alkyl substituted by halogen(s),  $-\text{O}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{S}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{O}$ -aryl,  $-\text{O}$ -lower alkylene-aryl,  $-\text{S}$ -lower alkylene-aryl, nitro, cyano,  $-\text{OCH}_2\text{O}$ , or  $-(\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}=\text{CH})-$ ;

$\text{R}^3$ :  $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ,  $-\text{CO}_2$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{CO}_2$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{CONHOH}$ ,  $-\text{CONHO}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{CONHOH}$ ,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{CONHO}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-(\text{NH}_2 \text{ in a prodrug form})$ ,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{NH}_2$ , or  $-\text{lower alkylene}-(\text{NH}_2 \text{ in a prodrug form})$ ;

$\text{R}^5$ : the same or different, H or a lower alkyl group;